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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - UNGA, SEPTEMBER 11, AND KATRINA

UNGA

[11.](#) "Disappointment at the Summit, Passivity on the Plains"  
by Joaquin Samayoa in Sept. 21 moderate daily La Prensa  
Grafica (circ. 110,000).

"The UN General Assembly on global poverty produced a lukewarm consensus, expressed in a document that emerged after several months of work to accommodate the concessions that powerful countries demanded to the original rough draft. Other countries could only sign it and express their dissatisfaction.

"In a way, the agreements have been a step backward from the commitments of five years ago to help less developed countries reach the Millennium goals. The ambassador of one of the most influential countries even went so far as to request the removal from the document of all explicit references to those goals.

"The disappointment that several Latin American leaders expressed during the Summit or in later statements is, therefore, understandable. However, we have neither lost much nor failed to gain much with a document that barely maintains previous commitments. After all, development assistance can neither be imposed nor demanded...

"In all societies and in international relations, poor countries and poor people need things from those more fortunate. They need justice, respect, and a little solidarity. This is easy to understand. What is less obvious, though equally true, is the inverse: the wealthy need the services, the productivity, and the consumption of the poor. They also need the political stability and social peace that extreme poverty tends to undermine.

"The UN must show more firmness and initiative in matters crucial to the development of poor countries.. Nations that through no merit of their own are privileged to be comfortably seated on petroleum resources that all others need must be brought under international regulations that satisfy a logic other than that of the free market. Those are the kind of challenges that today's community of nations must face.

"But we poor countries have our own responsibilities. [We must remember] that the development assistance that we receive from other countries comes from the taxes of their citizens. It has always seemed difficult to me to keep a straight face and request that the citizens of other countries use their tax dollars to help us while we resist paying the taxes we owe. Tax collection, corruption and inefficiency in the public sector are problems that we are called upon to deal with."

SEPTEMBER 11 AND HURRICANE KATRINA

[12.](#) "That Black September" by Dr. Luis Sarbelio Navarrete in Sept. 21 El Diario de Hoy (conservative, circ. 100,000).

"Four years have gone by and the winds of hatred still blow around our world.

"Reading remembrances from September 11, 2001, I re-lived my own experience of that day.. I did not understand well what was happening until, alarmed, I heard President Bush, defining the action as vile and cowardly, say with firmness: "This is the first war of the Twenty-First Century.'

"We all notice when, during the Salvadoran independence festivities of that black September, a small group of Salvadorans exhibited hatred against the United States, yelling that they would "send another plane," in clear reference to that repugnant action where more than 2,700 innocent people, including five Salvadorans, died...

"Now, decrying the lack of immediate aid for the victims of Katrina, [Bush's] internal enemies are in the forefront of discrediting the President who - whether we like him or not - is a brave and visionary man..."

BUTLER